FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 SEPTEMBER 1985

Tunisia-Libya

The Tunisian Foreign Ministry summoned the Libyan general commissioner in Tunis and informed him of Tunisia's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Libya, Tunis radio announced. The move is a result of Libya's "continuous policies of aggression and enmity" toward Tunisia, the radio disclosed, adding that these policies took an "overt form" following Libya's decision to "arbitrarily" expel Tunisian workers. Tunisia also has "irrefutable" evidence that the Libyan diplomatic mission and other Libyan institutions in Tunisia have become shelters for terrorism, spying, and sabotage, the radio claimed. Earlier, Tunis radio announced that Tunisia expelled four Libyan diplomats for their involvement in sending parcel bombs to a number of Tunisian newspapers and journalists. In a related move, TAP reported that Tunisia suspended all flights between Tunis and Tripoli and withdrew landing rights for Libyan Arab Airlines. Reacting to the break in diplomatic ties and other Tunisian measures, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio said Tunisia was behaving in an "irrational and childish" manner. Meanwhile, JANA claimed that reports of Libya sending "booby-trapped" parcels were "manufactured" by Tunisian authorities.

Sudan

Members of the Sudanese Armed Forces staged revolts in Khartoum and Omdurman but the situation was "fully contained," Defense Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah said in remarks broadcast by Omdurman radio. The defense minister said a "misguided" group with "racist aims" opened fire on an equipment corps in northern Khartoum at about 3 am local time on 26 September, killing one officer and injuring three other soldiers. He added that the mutineers were able to capture the camp before it was stormed by the Army. Earlier, another armed group opened fire on the medical corps command in Omdurman, injuring three officers and a civilian, the defense minister said.

A source cited by AFP said the mutineers in Khartoum were Army soldiers from the south who sympathized with Sudanese People's Liberation Army leader John Garang. The soldiers managed to escape with a large quantity of weapons, AFP reported, noting that bridges and access roads to Khartoum were blocked by government troops until 8 am local time 26 September in an effort to catch them. A council of ministers statement carried by Omdurman radio called the incidents "regrettable" and urged Sudanese citizens to confront any "suspect move" which aims to "exterminate" the gains of the revolution.

Lebanon

Israeli planes attacked a building west of Ba'labakk 26 September belonging to the Fatah dissident organization headed by Sa'id Musa Muragha, according to the IDF spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio. Damascus radio confirmed the Israeli attack but said no human or material losses were reported.

The general strike in West Beirut to protest the security situation was "successfully staged" 27 September, Beirut radio announced. Earlier, the radio reported that a group of gunmen kidnapped two British women near the American University in West Beirut. The women were kidnapped by members of Hizballah, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed. However, a British Embassy source cited by Beirut radio said the embassy has not received any confirmation of the kidnapping from Lebanese police.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami met with Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm in Damascus to discuss the crisis in Tripoli, Damascus radio announced.

Israel

Israel will seek the extradition of the three Palestinian gunmen who are being held in Cyprus in connection with the murder of three Israelis in Larnaca 25 September, Jerusalem radio announced. Meanwhile, Nicosia radio reported that the Larnaca District Court issued warrants for the 8-day detention of the gunmen. The PLO office in Nicosia said in a statement reported by Nicosia television that the person in charge of the Palestinian group "Force 17" emphatically denied that the perpetrators of the attack belong to his forces.

Talks between Egyptian and Israeli experts on the Tabah issue were held in Cairo, MENA reported. Dr 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, head of the Egyptian delegation, said in remarks reported by the agency that the talks were "positive." The director general of the Israeli foreign minister's office said the Israeli delegation hopes to return to Cairo 1 October to complete the discussions, MENA noted. As for the internal situation, a curfew was imposed on Halhul after terrorists opened fire on a bus and injured seven people, ITIM reported.

Saudi Arabia-Britain

Saudi Arabia will buy 132 planes and related equipment from Britain, according to an agreement signed by the two countries reported by Riyadh radio. The deal includes 72 Tornado fighters and 60 training aircraft, the radio noted. Defense and aviation Minister Prince Sultan said in remarks reported by SPA that the agreement, which is worth between 3 and 4 billion pounds, will not affect the Kingdom's relations with the United States.

Oman-USSR

Muscat radio confirmed that Oman and the Soviet Union agreed to establish diplomatic relations during a 21 September meeting between Yusuf al-'Alawi Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 188 *27 September 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Riyadh: Mujahidin Repulse Attack Near Kabul ..... C 1
Bombing Attempt Foiled in Kabul 26 Sep ..... C 1
Briefs: Heroin Seizure ..... C 1

INDIA

Further Reportage on Election Results in Punjab ..... E 1
Gandhi: 'Blow' to Separatists ..... E 1
Akali Dal Secures Absolute Majority ..... E 1
Further Details *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Moderates Ready To Form Government *[AFP]* ..... E 2
Barnala Elected Leader of Akali Dal ..... E 2
BBC Correspondent on Election Trends ..... E 2
Foreign Secretary on Outcome of Colombo Talks ..... E 3
Economic Cooperation With Cuba Discussed ..... E 3
Commentary on Pakistan Nuclear Program, U.S. Role ..... E 3
Atomic Energy Chief Offers To Share Technology ..... E 4
Airbus Contract Could 'Oust' Boeing Out of Market *[AFP]* ..... E 4
Satellite To Be Launched in 1986 ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

Yaqub Khan, Noorani Congratulate Indian Counterparts ..... F 1
HAIDAR: Nixon Comments on Afghanistan Issue *[19 Sep]* ..... F 1
Afghan Mujahidin Commander Reported Killed ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Foreign Minister Greets New Indian Counterpart ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

India's Bhandari, President Hold Talks on Tamils *[Delhi]* ..... G 1
Tamil Separatists Killed in Police Station Attack ..... G 1
Further Details *[AFP]* ..... G 1
Members of Cease-Fire Monitor Team To Be Announced *[AFP]* ..... G 1

IRAN

Khamene'i Discusses War in Friday Sermon ..... I 1
Warns Gulf States on Iraq ..... I 1
IRGC Commander Rejects Iraq-Sponsored Peace ..... I 2
Velayati Interviewed Prior to Departure for UN ..... I 2
Foreign Ministry Official Investigates Lebanon Clashes ..... I 2
Lebanese Muslim Chiefs Address Mourners on Civil War ..... I 3
Exhibition on Oil Company's Activities Opens ..... I 3
Inauguration Events of Third War Exhibition Detailed ..... I 3
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 3

Communique No 2,240 ..... I 3
NVOI Cites Tudeh Party on Anniversary of War ..... I 4
Afghan Mujahidin Reportedly Make Gains in North ..... I 4

Riyadh: Mujahidin Repulse Attack Near Kabul

GF261230 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin have repulsed an attempt by the Soviet forces and the Babrak Karmal forces to control a dam and a power station in Shakwardat area near Kabul. The Soviet invading forces used helicopters in bombing the area, which has been under mujahidin control for 5 years.

A mujahidin source stated that the attack martyred 2 of the mujahidin and 11 civilians.

Bombing Attempt Foiled in Kabul 26 Sep

LD261717 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] The sold out agents of imperialism once again want to soak in blood and soil a number of our citizens in the Third Microrayon [of Kabul].

Reporting to the BAKHTAR Information Agency, a spokesman for the security forces said that agents and servants of reaction and imperialism at around 0730 today placed a large quantity of explosives in a motorcycle and left it at Ansari Wat near the Pashtani Tejarati Bank office at the Third Microrayon in order to intimidate once again our innocent compatriots and soak them in blood. It was discovered that as a result of the vigilance of our security forces and the direct cooperation of our toiling compatriots, this sinister plan of the sworn enemies of the people, homeland, and revolution was foiled.

By engaging in such unhuman action, the savage and criminal counterrevolutionaries have once again exposed their filthy and satanical face to our patriotic and toiling compatriots.

The heroic and courageous security forces of the country, while expressing their gratitude, request our noble compatriots to contact Kabul telephone number 21908 immediately after discovering or witnessing such incidents. Through joint efforta these incidents can be prevented. Do not let these savage lunatics, in collusion with the international terrorism of the CIA, soak our children, women, and brother compatriots in blood.

Briefs

Heroin Seizure — The officials of the Crimes Control Department of the Second Security Ward have discovered and seized heroin valued over 13 million afghanis which had been hidden in vehicles. Quoting a spokesman of the Second Security Ward, the correspondent of BIA adds that 91 sacks of heroin were cleverly hidden in vehicles of the Kabul Herat Line and in one private car. The source added that these vehicles with their drivers were seized and the case is under investigation. [Text][*Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 25 Sep 85 LD*]

Further Reportage on Election Results in Punjab

Gandhi: 'Blow' to Separatists

BK270941 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] The prime minister has described the Punjab poll as a blow to the separatist forces. In a message, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has thanked the people of Punjab for demonstrating the enduring strength of democratic institutions in India and for asserting eloquently that India is invincible. The prime minister said his party might have lost the election battle in Punjab but it has won the war for India's unity and integrity.

Akali Dal Secures Absolute Majority

BK270301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Excerpts] In Punjab, the Akali Dal has been swept to power. The party has secured an absolute majority in 117-member house. With 95 results so far announced, Akali Dal has bagged 60 followed by the Congress-I 29. This is the record win for the party, surpassing its earlier 58 seats in the 1977 elections.

In the election to the 13 Lok Sabha seats, 3 results are available. Two of them are gone in favor of the Akali Dal. Mr Shamira Singh has won the Faridkot seat, while the party's secretary general, Mr Balwant Singh Ramuwalia, has secured the Sangrur seat. The All India Congress-I Committee general secretary, Mr R.L. Bhatia, has won the Amritsar seat.

Here is the latest tally in the Punjab assembly elections: total seats 117; election held 115; results declared 102; Akali Dal 65; Congress-I 31; Bharatiya Janata Party 2; CPI 1; Janata Party 1; independents 2.

Further Details

HK270720 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 27 Sep 85

[By Jean-Francois Leven]

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 27 (AFP) — This week's state elections in Punjab marked a victory for the moderate Sikh party, the Akali Dal, but were also a success for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, analysts here said today.

While Mr Gandhi's Congress (I) Party has lost its control of the state assembly to the Akali Dal, the elections have vindicated Mr Gandhi's determination to normalise the situation in Punjab, they added.

Punjab had been under direct federal rule for two years, due to a violent campaign by militant Sikhs for greater autonomy for the Sikh-dominated state.

Mr Gandhi announced new state elections after singing a peace accord with moderate Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal at the end of July. He decided to go ahead with the accord despite militant Sikhs rejecting it and the assassination of Mr Longowal by Sikh gunmen last month.

The 65 percent turnout registered in Wednesday's poll, despite a Sikh militant call for a boycott, has vindicated Mr Gandhi and those in favour of normalisation of affairs in the state, and marked a defeat for the militants, analysts said here.

Press reports said that the death of Mr Longowal had further hindered the militants' cause, leading to a wave of sympathy for the Akali Dal moderates similar to that which gave Mr Gandhi a landslide victory in elections after the assassination of his mother, Premier Indira Gandhi, in October.

This sympathy reaction had contributed to the Akali Dal's success in even predominantly Hindu areas of the state, they added.

At 8 a.m. (0230 GMT) today, with results declared for 102 of the 117 state assembly seats, the Akali Dal held 65 seats, against Congress (I)'s 31, with the six remaining seats divided among various other parties and independent candidates.

The count was proceeding slowly, because of extensive security precautions which have marked the whole of the election.

The final results will count only 115 seats, because the elections in two constituencies have been declared void following the death of a candidate who was standing in both areas.

Forecasts suggest that at the final count, the Akali Dal will have taken 72 seats, virtually doubling the 37 it held after the last state assembly elections in 1980, while Congress (I) will have seen its representation trimmed from 63 to 34 seats.

The Akali Dal could still face problems, however, despite this first Sikh victory in India's only majority Sikh state since 1977, press reports here warned. There is not only a continued threat of sabotage attempts by the extremists, but also that of divisions within the Akali Dal itself.

No clear successor to Mr Longowal has emerged, and the Akali Dal's caretaker president Surjit Singh Barnala will not necessarily take over as leader of the new state government.

Militant Akali Dal members have rallied around supporters of the late militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, killed during an Indian Army assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Sikhs' holiest shrine last year. Some 650 people died in the Army operation to flush out militants who had taken refuge in the temple complex.

Despite these threats of trouble in the future, the Punjab elections have marked a political success for Mr Gandhi, who placed normalising the situation in Punjab top of his list of priorities when he came to power 11 months ago, observers here noted.

This is more important to him than ensuring that Congress (I) is in control of all India's 31 state assemblies as well as the federal government, although this was the policy favoured by his late mother.

Mr Gandhi prefers to see opposition groups expressing themselves by taking control legally in the states, rather than by engaging in opposition outside the legal political framework.

This has already been seen in Andhra Pradesh, where the regional Telegu Desam Party holds power, and Congress (I) is also likely to be ousted in forthcoming state elections in Tamil Nadu and Kashmir, where the Tamil and Moslem communities are contesting the polls.

Moderates Ready To Form Government
HK261326 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, Sept 26 (AFP) — The moderate faction of the Sikh Akali Dal party was poised to form a new government in Punjab today as vote-counting in yesterday's state assembly election showed the moderate Sikhs ahead in a majority of election contests.

But a spokesman for the militant faction of the Akali Dal, which had called for an election boycott, said that the militants would oppose the new government in this troubled northern state.

National television said that the Akali Dal moderate faction was heading for a "comfortable majority," having made gains all over the state, even in mainly Hindu areas.

But Akali Dal militant faction spokesman Darshan Singh said: "The Akali Dal is going to be in power because the Congress (I) wants it. We are meeting here Saturday and then we will officially announce our stand, but I am authorised to say that we are going to treat the Akali Dal moderates with the same contempt as we do the Congress (I)."

In the outgoing assembly, suspended for two years because of an often bloody Sikh campaign for greater autonomy for Punjab, the Congress (I) had 63 seats and the Akali Dal 37.

Yesterday's elections were called after Mr Gandhi and Akali Dal moderate faction leader Sant Harchand Singh Longowal signed an agreement in July intended to end the campaign.

Militant Sikhs demanding a separate Sikh state in Punjab rejected the accord and called for a boycott of the elections.

The winning Akali Dal candidates plan to visit Sangrur to pay homage to Mr Longowal, who was slain by suspected Sikh militants last month.

Mr Longowal's successor as head of the Akali Dal moderate faction, Surjit Singh Barnala, said he had called a meeting of newly elected legislators for Saturday in the state capital Chandigarh to elect a new leader. Analysts here said that there might be a bitter clash among moderate Sikh leaders. Mr Barnala does not enjoy total support in the Akali Dal.

Officials said that the turnout yesterday was a victory for Mr Gandhi's peace plan for the troubled northern state. Some 55-60 percent of the 10.7-million-strong electorate voted, slightly fewer than in previous elections, officials said. "The main issue at stake here is not who wins the poll, but the turnout and the law and order situation and on both counts the people here showed they want peace," one state official said.

Barnala Elected Leader of Akali Dal
BK271242 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1235 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] In Punjab, the acting president of the Akali Dal, Surjit Singh Barnala, has been unanimously elected leader of the Akali Dal legislature party.

BBC Correspondent on Election Trends
BK261313 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Sep 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] With the first official results of yesterday's elections in the troubled Indian state of Punjab expected shortly, early trends in the counting show the Sikh party, the Akali Dal, doing well. And our Delhi correspondent, Mark Tully, who has been following the count, says the trends, which are normally considered reliable, show the likelihood of an Akali Dal victory over Mr Rajiv Gandhi's Indira Congress Party.

[Begin Mark Tully recording] The counting trends announced so far show the Akali Dal well ahead of their rivals, the prime minister's Congress-Indira party. In Indian elections counting trends are a very reliable pointer to the eventual outcome, so much so that the presenter of the government television service's results program has already said an Akali victory is a certainty.

The Congress-Indira also appears to be faring less well than expected in the elections for the parliamentary seats. They are trailing in four including the seats for the industrial city of Jullundur where the Punjab Congress Party President General Sparrow was expected to be returned again.

A (?Sikhologist) speaking on the television results program says that for the first time it was observed that some of the Hindu vote is going to the Sikh religious party. The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, the Communists and [words indistinct] of the Janata Party which once ruled India are, as expected, trailing far behind the two main contenders.

So, for the first time in its history, the Akali Dal may well form a government in Punjab on its own. That will mean it will have to accept the responsibility for implementing the Punjab accord, signed by the party's president and the prime minister. The accord brought to an end the Sikh religious party's 3-year long agitation.

Although the Congress has consistently maintained that it has been fighting this election to form a government, many Congress members in private admit that they feel it is better for the Akali Dal to have responsibility for implementing the Punjab accord. [End recording]

Foreign Secretary on Outcome of Colombo Talks

BK270313 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has assured that on its part there will be no violation of the cease-fire between its security forces and the Tamil militants. The assurance came during talks between the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, and President Jayewardene. Mr Bhandari also had a separate meeting with the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali.

The foreign secretary was talking to newsmen in Madras on his return from Colombo. Mr Bhandari said that Mr Jayewardene had expressed his sincere desire to do everything possible for a solution to the ethnic problem in the island. He said during his 8-hour discussion, he impressed upon Sri Lankan authorities to create a conducive atmosphere in the island for continuing the dialogue for a negotiated settlement of the issue. The foreign secretary said the main thrust of his discussion was on bringing about normalcy by ensuring that there is no cease-fire violations.

Economic Cooperation With Cuba Discussed

BK240522 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] Cuba has sought the cooperation of India in various fields, including trade and commerce. A joint committee will be set up to review the economic and trade links between the two countries. A decision to this effect was taken in New Delhi yesterday when the visiting foreign minister of Cuba, Mr Ricardo Cabrizas [title as heard], met the finance and commerce minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in New Delhi. They also agreed to set up another committee to explore the possibilities of participating in joint ventures in third countries.

Commentary on Pakistan Nuclear Program, U.S. Role

BK201431 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 20 Sep 85

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt, political commentator, on the United States and Pakistan's nuclear weapons program]

[Text] The Indo-American dialogue on bilateral and international issues, which reached a high point during the Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Washington in June, has been continuing at various levels. Important issues came up for discussion when two senior officials of the Reagan administration were in Delhi this week. The American under secretary of state for political affairs, Mr Michael H. Armacost, and a presidential aide, Mr Donald R. Fortier, who is also a key figure in the U.S. National Security Council, spent a couple of days in the Indian capital. They met the prime minister and had detailed talks with the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari. The American officials also held a separate session with the Indian defense secretary, Mr Bhatnagar.

Not surprisingly, the nuclear threat posed by Pakistan's weapons program was on the top of the agenda. If reports from the American end are to be believed, the two U.S. officials had been briefed to bring up this matter in their discussions in Delhi as well as the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, which was their next port of call. The American media reports also spoke of a rift developing in the relations between the United States and Pakistan and certain degree of disenchantment in Washington over the state of affairs in Pakistan. But that is a matter between the two countries. It is for them to sort out their bilateral problems or put their relationship on a newly-evaluated basis.

What bothers India is the Pakistani persistence with its nuclear arms program. Both the American sources themselves and occasional boastful reports from Pakistan speak of Islamabad being very near to acquiring nuclear weapons capability. India has made no secret of her fears that this is, in fact, happening and unless the Ziaul Haq regime is stopped in its tracks here and now, the Pakistani bomb will be a reality before long. That has vital and profoundly disturbing implications for India. The government cannot but sit up and take note of such a major development.

The issue has figured in parliament and outside its forums too. The prime minister referred to it in his discussions with President Reagan and other high-ranking U.S. officials in Washington last June and in his public pronouncements then and since. India's stand was again made clear to the visiting U.S. officials, Messers Armacost and Fortier during their talks in the Indian capital.

The United States, which have given Pakistan military and economic aid worth 3.2 billion dollars in recent years and has built it up as a frontline state in its West Asian strategy, has a great deal of responsibility to prevent from going nuclear. Before giving such massive military assistance to Pakistan, Washington had also waived the Symington amendment, which specifically bars such aids to countries set on the road to nuclear weapons development. In fact, there have been frequent demands in the U.S. Senate to stop the aid and the arms supplies unless Islamabad puts a stop to its weapons program. The Reagan administration has, however, brushed aside the ojections. The onus to prevent Paksistan from going nuclear, therefore, squarely rests on Washington's shoulders. This was the point urged by the Indian side in the talks with the two American officials in Delhi this week.

India announced long ago her unilateral decision to forego nuclear weapons although her capability for making them was well established. She had adhered to it in the face of growing threats from Pakistan and persistent demands at home that the nuclear options be reviewed. American attempts, therefore, to equate India and Pakistan in this regard do not stand to reason. On one side, it is India which, having the ability to make the bomb, has abstained from it and is firm in her resolve to stick to that policy. On the other, there is Pakistan, which has been the recipient of U.S. beneficence in arms and economic supplies and which, despite the stated American policy of preventing the spread of nuclear arms, is rushing headlong toward it.

The illogicality of equating the two neighbors in this manner was brought home to the American visitors. India has rightly urged the United States to monitor the Pakistani program and prevent Islamabad from acquiring the bomb before it is too late. There cannot be a regional initiative for preventing a nuclear race when

there is no race as such. Indian abstinence should be matched by Pakistan abandoning its weapon program. The race, if any, automatically comes to an end. Washington, which holds a special responsibility in regard to Islamabad, has to ensure that the Pakistani bomb project is given up soon.

Atomic Energy Chief Offers To Share Technology

BK240552 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] India has offered to share its technical know-how in setting up power reactors with developing countries to solve the energy crisis. This was stated by the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr R. Ramanna, while addressing the 29th general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. He said the agency should now seriously consider international funding — both money and material — for setting up power reactors in developing countries. Dr Ramanna pointed out that if the nuclear nonproliferation treaty is to be effective, it must apply to all countries.

Airbus Contract Could 'Oust' Boeing Out of Market

HK220926 Hong Kong AFP in English 0845 GMT 22 Sep 85

[By Jean-Francois Leven]

[Text] New Delhi, Sep 22 (AFP) — The European Airbus consortium is set to bag a contract to supply India with 31 Airbus A320's together worth 1.6 billion dollars and shut Boeing out of the Indian market, Air Industry sources said here today.

Indian Airlines (IA), the country's domestic carrier, yesterday signed a letter of intent with Airbus to buy 19 aircraft and take out an option on 12 more, the Airbus's director general here, Ranjit Jayaratnau, announced.

IA, which already has 10 Airbus A300's in its fleet, had earlier signed a letter of intent with U.S. planemaker Boeing to buy 12 Boeing 757's to replace 25 ageing 737's which form the backbone of IA's fleet. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency reported that the airline had simply cancelled the Boeing letter of intent, but this could not be confirmed.

IA, the third-largest domestic airline outside the United States, carried 8.5 million passengers in fiscal 1984-1985 and is expected to carry nearly 10 million next year.

The Airbus consortium has also agreed to lease IA both Boeings and planes of its own manufacture to tide the airline over until the 1988-1990 delivery date for the new A320's, the sources said.

IA is running increasing numbers of flights to neighbouring countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and recently Thailand.

The country's international carrier, Air India, has six Airbus A310-300's on order. The first is due to be delivered next year. The fleet is intended to eventually replace Air India's obsolete Boeing 707's. Air India has asked for an option on six more Airbuses and the sources said that the deal would soon be confirmed.

If the IA order for 31 planes is confirmed, the Airbus consortium stands a sound chance of ousting Boeing as India's main supplier of airliners by the end of the century, the soruces said.

Air India is also expected to phase out its Boeing 747's, the sources said. The airline lost one in June in a crash off Ireland which killed 329 people.

Satellite To Be Launched in 1986

BK241435 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] India will launch a satellite early next year to carry out experiment on gamma ray bursts. The satellite will be launched by the augmented satellite launch vehicle from Sri Harikota. The project director, Mr Thomas, said in Bangalore that experiments will also be carried out on emissions from celestial bodies.

Yaqub Khan, Noorani Congratulate Indian Counterparts
BK261530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] The foreign minister has felicitated B.R. Bhagat on his appointment as external affairs minister of India. In a message to him, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan expressed the hope that B.R. Bhagat's taking office as external affairs minister will provide further impetus to the process of establishing tension-free and good-neighborly relations between the two countries. He assured the new Indian external affairs minister of his full cooperation and said he is looking forward to working with him to achieve this objective.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, has felicitated K.R. Narayanan on his appointment as new minister of state for external affairs of India. In his message, Zain Noorani expressed the hope that Indian-Pakistani relations will continue to grow for the benefit of the people of both countries.

HAIDAR: Nixon Comments on Afghanistan Issue
GF261442 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 19 Sep 85 p 3

[Editorial: "The Former U.S. President's Realistic View"]

[Text] According to a government news agency, former U.S. President Mr Richard Nixon spoke to correspondents at a border post near Afghanistan and said that the Soviet Union will never relinquish Afghanistan, and that the resistance forces are not in a position to expel or drive out the Soviet forces. He said that the countries interested in the Afghan issue or who support the Afghan cause should create conditions whereby the issue could be resolved at the highest diplomatic level. This cannot be done without the participation of the parties concerned or the Soviet Union and the United States.

On the whole, Mr Richard Nixon has expressed a very realistic view, and there is no doubt that the Soviet forces cannot be evacuated by force. This dispute can only be settled by negotiations. President Nixon's statement that the Soviet forces cannot be driven out by force and that a major power like the Soviet Union cannot be ousted by limited resources and capacity of the groups forming the Afghan resistence, strikes home as true.

Former U.S. President Mr Nixon should also brief the U.S. Government that the Soviet Union will never give upAfghanistan and that the resistance groups are helpless in this matter. The United States is the only country giving wholehearted support and assistance to the Afghan mujahidin and providing it with military aid. The former U.S. president is in favor of solving this issue by means of negotiations, but the present U.S. Administration follows a policy of attempting to liberate Afghanistan by means of military victories against the Soviet Union. The game played by the Soviet Union in the region is obvious to all. It entered Afghanistan by force and destroyed the balance of power in the area. This should be condemned outright.

The question then arises: How should this problem be resolved? Any solution which involves the use of force cannot be advocated or recommended, as it could be the harbinger of a third world war. The only solution seems to be around the negotiating table.

These opinions have been voiced by former President Richard Nixon, and his point of view should be supported by all who wish to protect the region from the flames of war.

In any case, the major role will have to be played by the Soviet Union and the United States. We hope that the two superpowers will keep in view the sentiments and opinions aired by former President Nixon and that the Afghanistan resistance groups will also assess the situation realistically. Although their efforts are sincerely and honestly motivated, it could be an exercise in futility.

Afghan Mujahidin Commander Reported Killed
BK261553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] Reports indicate that there was a major clash in Afghanistan near Khowst last Tuesday [24 September]. A news agency report says this clash followed an attack by mujahidin on a Soviet-Karmal post. The news agency, quoting mujahidin sources, says mujahidin commander (Dad Mir), who seized many military posts in Paktia in recent attacks, was martyred during an offensive near Khafeel, 10 km south-east of Khowst. Meanwhile, Radio Tehran has reported fresh operations by mujahidin in Nimruz Province, causing heavy casualties among Soviet-Karmal forces.

BANGLADESH

Foreign Minister Greets New Indian Counterpart

BK261315 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has felicitated Mr B.R. Bhagat on his assumption as foreign minister of India. He also felicitated Mr K.R. Narayanan for assuming the charge of the minister of state for external affairs. In two separate messages, Mr Chowdhury expressed the hope that under their tenure of office the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and India will be further strengthened.

SRI LANKA

India's Bhandari, President Hold Talks on Tamils

BK261417 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] India and Sri Lanka today agreed that the on-going discussions to find a solution to the island's ethnic problem should be continued on constructive and positive lines. This emerged after a 2 and 1/2 hour luncheon meeting the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, had with the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene. Mr Bhandari arrived in Colombo this morning on a day's visit to help consolidate the cease-fire between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil militants. He also held discussions with the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali.

Mr Bhandari emphasized Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi's earnest desire to revive and consolidate the cease-fire. Mr Jayewardene shared Mr Gandhi's views and approach and said that we were equally interested in eradicating violence for achieving a negotiated, practical and durable solution. Later, Mr Bhandari left for Madras where he is likely to hold discussions with various Tamil groups.

Tamil Separatists Killed in Police Station Attack

BK271104 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Seven terrorists were killed when the security forces repulsed the terrorist attack on the Willachiya police station in the early hours of this morning. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the terrorists had fled after the attack which took place at about 0230 [2100 GMT 26 Sep].

Further Details

HK270506 Hong Kong AFP in English 0429 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Colombo, Sept 27 (AFP) — Police killed four Tamil separatists who attacked a police station in the North Central Province before dawn today, security sources said. A civilian inside Willachiya police station, north of the ancient Sinhala capital of Anuradhapura, was wounded in the attack launched with automatic fire and mortars, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

Police took into custody a wounded man found outside the station. It was not immediately known whether he was one of the attackers.

Meanwhile the Tamil Eelam Army (TEA) has claimed an attack on Kilinochchi police station last Monday in the north of the island in which officials said nine soldiers and policemen were wounded and three militants killed.

The TEA stayed away from separatist peace talks with Colombo in July and August and did not agree to a three-month ceasefire agreement with Colombo, accepted by other separatist groups, that expired earlier this month. Colombo has since announced it will observe a unilateral ceasefire.

Members of Cease-Fire Monitor Team To Be Announced

HK270806 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Colombo, Sept 27 (AFP) — The mandate of a multi-racial group to monitor a ceasefire between security forces and Tamil separatists is to be announced this weekend, government sources said today.

The government statement came shortly after militant separatists mounted an attack on a police station in Willachiya, north of the ancient Sinhala capital of Anuradhapura. Four attackers died and two other persons were wounded in the action, security sources said.

Draft regulations for the three-member team comprising persons from the island's three main communities was ready, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The communities are the majority Sinhalese, the Tamils and the Moslems.

The main Tamil groups with whom the government has held two rounds of Indian-sponsored talks on the ethnic issue have rejected the government nominated team and called for international observers to monitor the ceasefire. But the Colombo government, which sees the ethnic issue as an internal matter, says that foreign observers would infringe on its sovereighty. Sri Lanka is supported on this by the Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari who told the Tamil groups after talks with government leaders here yesterday that they should first see how the monitoring group works.

The Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), the umbrella organisation of four of the major militant groups, has now submitted a list in New Delhi of 20 local persons it wants appointed to the monitoring group, diplomatic sources said.

Tamil sources said their objection to the three-member monitoring group already announced is that they were all government nominees.

President Junius Jayewardene yesterday assured the Indian Foreign Secretary that he would try to make the monitoring group

as independent and effective as possible, Mr Bhandari said. But some observers here doubted the effectiveness of a small monitoring group, especially if it was to operate outside Colombo. They said that unless the group was able to get to a trouble spot fast or operate out of the troubled areas it would be "extremely difficult" for it to function effectively.

"The primary task of such a group is to find out who broke the ceasefire, who fired the first shot", one observer said. He said that since only the five major Tamil groups were likely to go along with a second ceasefire agreement it was quite possible that some other group might violate the accord.

Khamene'i Discusses War in Friday Sermon

GF271500 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tehran Friday imam, at Tehran University on 27 September -- recorded]

[Text] Greetings to our Arab brothers and to all the children of our Islamic nation, men, and women everywhere. These days we are commemorating the 5th anniversary of the war which was imposed on us by the ruling regime in Iraq at the urging of the United States and its agents in the region. This anniversary coincides with the anniversary of the martyrdom of the most noble martyr Husayn ibn 'Ali, God's peace be upon him. He taught us to be neither subservient nor obsequious to those who perpetrate injustice. He recorded in his pure blood, and in the blood of his scion and companions in Karbala' the lessons of resistance, steadfastness, and sacrifice. These lessons mapped out, for the generations to come, the road of dignity, freedom, and pride.

Our defensive resistance to the unjust war which is being imposed on us receives its profundity from the blood of martyrs for Islam, foremost of whom is the most noble martyr, Husayn ibn 'Ali, God's peace be upon him. This war which is imposed on us is designed in the first place to achieve a political victory and consequently, a military victory.

On the political level, this war was designed to destroy the Islamic Republic of Iran through invading its territories, subsequently extinguishing the flame of the Islamic revolution and thwarting this novel Islamic experience in the international arena. On the military level, this unjust war — which is full of expansionist and hegemonic intentions — was designed to carve Khuzestan out of Iran and set up a puppet wealthy shaykhdom or to annex this part of land to Iraq. Undoubetly, Saddam and all those who fanned the fire of this war strongly regret the failure of their plans — indeed, regret that their evil acts have backfired on them.

First, the Iranian people say that repentance is not enough; such a crime which aims at disparaging the achievements of the people and inflicting heavy material and human losses cannot be excused by repentance and excuses. Decisive measures must be taken to compensate for losses, if possible, and to guarantee that such a tragedy will not be repeated.

Second, the Iranian people have learned through a number of bitter experiences that the clique ruling in Iraq is an aggressive, unjust, tyrannical, expansionist, and conspiratorial gang which commits any crime to achieve its goals. Therefore, our people have the right to believe that this war must end once and for all. Every step to end this war must take into consideration this vital issue; otherwise, should the blows of the soldiers of Islam against the enemy along the border stop, they will enable the ruling regime in Iraq to prepare itself once more with the help of the international powers and resume its vile aggression. These just Iranian conditions to halt the war stem from this clear consideration.

Our readiness to confront any threat increases day by day through God's grace and bounty. Contrary to the enemy's expectations, the war has strengthened development, solidarity, experience, and readiness. The ruling regime in Iraq is trying to expand the war and drag others into its crematorium. We are determined to avoid this sinister and cunning plot. Evidence exists that the recent attacks on our oil installations were carried out with the encouragement of sources outside Iraq. Such strong and certain evidence saddens us. If this takes place, we surely will not hesitate to enter into decisive confrontation.

Our opinion concerning the Persian Gulf is clear: If the Islamic Republic, half of whose coastline touches the Persian Gulf, is one day unable to benefit from this important waterway, then others who have caused Iran this trouble will not be able to use it either,from north to south or east to west. We are defending our life interests and whoever threatens these interests will face a strong reaction. We are able to do this, God willing.

I affirm to all brothers and sisters that, after these 5 years of defense and resistance, we are now enjoying more of God's care and are endowed more with God's graces. God says: "As to those who answered the call of God and the messenger after they had received an injury, those who do good and act righteously shall have a great reward. Those to whom men said: 'People have mustered against you, therefore fear them,' but this only increased their faith, and they said, 'sufficient for us is God, and an excellent guardian is he.' So they returned with a mighty favor from God and a great bounty, while no evil had touched them; and they followed the pleasure of God; and God is the Lord of great bounty. It is only satan who frightens his friends; so fear them not but fear me, if you are believers." [Koranic verse]

I admonish you, brothers and sisters, to fear God, and I pray God to forgive me and you. "In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. When the help of God comes, and the victory, and you see men entering the religion of God in throngs, glorify your Lord, with his praise, and seek forgiveness of him. Surely he is oft-returning with compassion." [Koranic verse] Peace, God's mercy and benedictions be upon you.

Warns Gulf States on Iraq

LD271210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Today — the sixth day of War Week, named as the day of self-sacrifice for paying tribute to martyrs, POW's, the disabled, and the missing warriors of the war — millions of our Muslim compatriots throughout the country took part in the religio-political Friday prayers ceremonies to emphasize their determination to continue the sacred battle against the aggressive enemy until final victory. The people of Tehran also attended Friday prayers at Tehran University and in its surrounding streets, under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i.

The Friday imam of Tehran spoke in detail on the spiritual effects of prayers and the bloody uprising of the Lord of the martyrs, His Great Eminence Husayn, son of 'Ali — peace be upon him. On the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Nezhad and the brave commanders of Islam, Lieutenant General Fallahi, Brigadier General Fakuri, Brigadier General Namju, martyr Kolahduz, and martyr Jahanpanah, the Friday imam of Tehran paid tribute to these honorable martyrs for their services to the Islamic revolution. He referred to War Week and the anniversary of the imposed war as one of the most important issues of the past week.

Referring to the fact that the Iraqi regime — because of its defeats and incapability on the fronts of the land battle — intends to drag the war into the waters of the Persian Gulf, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said:

[Announcer read] It is possible that the Iraqi regime is carrying out its satanic moves in the Persian Gulf waters and its attack on Khark Island by using bases of some littoral states of the Persian Gulf. Therefore, we give a friendly warning to governments of the Persian Gulf region not to be deceived by Saddam. Our relations with the Persian Gulf littoral states are friendly. It is a fact that one half of the Persian Gulf coastline belongs to Iran. If one day we were to find ourselves incapable of exporting our oil then we would not permit any other country in the Persian Gulf region to export oil or import goods. Even so, we have no intention of being the first to create such a crisis simply to prove the mistakes of others who say: Iran does not have the power or capability to do this.

Later, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, while praising Iranian POW's in Iraqi prisons, said: Under difficult circumstances, these dear ones are waging a publicity campaign for Islam. They have sent us a message saying: We will continue our resistance in Iraqi prisons; if the war were to continue for 20 years we would not surrender.

IRGC Commander Rejects Iraq-Sponsored Peace

LD271351 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Text] Mohsen Rezai'e, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], made a speech before Friday prayers today on the fifth anniversary of the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran. Noting the aims of the superpowers in imposing the war on Iran, Saddam Husayn's role in such dead-end intrigues, and the pressures to compromise and drag Iran into conciliation, he said: Saddam and the world arrogance who spoke of peace offered the same sort of peace that was offered to Imam Husayn.

The IRGC commander stressed that Saddam and the Iraqi Ba'th Party have been given the task of compromising our nation into allegiance [bay'at] with the United States. He pointed out the victories gained during various operations by the Islamic combatants last year, and added: One of the most important tasks carried out by the corps was that of restarting [rahandazi] strategic missiles and their complicated training sessions. Thirteen of these missiles hit Baghdad with precision and another targeted Karkuk.

The IRGC commander concluded by referring to the imam's decree on organizing the three arms of the corps, and noted: The world and the superpowers have begun hatching plots against this decree of the imam. We announce today that there are no limitations on our defensive capabilities and forces. Furthermore, it is said that the Muslims must defend themselves as they live. [Sentence as heard]

Flight Captain Mahmud Ansari then declared the readiness of the pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces to selflessly defend the Islamic homeland and Islamic ideals.

Velayati Interviewed Prior to Departure for UN

LD271246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 85

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati left Tehran for New York this morning along with a delegation of diplomatic officials to participate in the UN General Assembly session. Before his departure, the foreign minister was interviewed by our correspondent. We draw your attention to his interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, what issues will the Islamic Republic of Iran raise at this meeting, and on what issues on the agenda will you stress positively?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. For us, the important issues to be raised at the United Nations are the issues of Palestine, Namibia, Afghanistan, disarmament, and the existing economic problems of the world and their proposed solutions. In connection with the Iraqi agression against Iran and the violation of international regulations by the Iraq regime, we will present our point of view in a speech — God willing — and also in committees. We will support those views which are close to our ideas, and no doubt our cooperation with our friends will play an essential role in promoting our objectives. [End recording]

Foreign Ministry Official Investigates Lebanon Clashes

LD262106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] Following heavy clashes among warring factions in Tripoli, Lebanon, in which the use of various light and heavy weapons brought all the city's residential areas under fire last night, the situation has become calmer this morning.

According to an IRNA report from Beirut, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Monotheistic Movement, in an interview last night, condemned the pressures exerted upon the citizens of Tripoli, which forced the majority of the population to leave the city. He called on the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by cooperating with our Syrian brothers, to implement the articles of the Damascus treaty.

According to the same report, an undersecretary from our Foreign Ministry arrived in Damascus 3 days ago, leading a delegation to investigate Tripoli's problems. After touring Tripoli yesterday and talking with the Islamic Monotheistic Movement's leader -- as well as with other Islamic officials and figures in the city -- he returned to Damascus to resume talks with Syrian

officials in order to continue his efforts to end the regrettable clashes.

At noon today the under secretary met 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian vice-president, and informed him of the outcome of his talks in Tripoli.

Another report from Tripoli says escalating tension in the city, water and electricity cuts, and food shortages have imposed a state of semi-famine upon the people. According to the latest published statistics, the number of those killed and wounded during the 13 days of battles has increased to 800.

Lebanese Muslim Chiefs Address Mourners on Civil War

LD261327 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 26 Sep 85

["Ashura Marked Worldwide" — IRNA headline]

[Excerpt] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA — Tens of thousands of Muslims in Lebanon. Bangladesh, Bahrain, Kuwait, Pakistan, UAE, and elsewhere throughout the world held ceremonies Wednesday and Thursday, commemorating the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Husayn (the third imam of Shi'a Muslims). Nationwide mourning ceremonies were also held throughout the Islamic Republic Thursday to mark the occasion.

Speaking to Muslim Lebanese mourners in southern Lebanon, Sayid Muhammad Fadlallah referred to the present situation in Lebanon and said that overthrow of the ruling regime in that country was the only solution for ending the sectarian civil war there. He said those who welcomed Israeli intervention in Lebanon should not be trusted.

In a separate ceremony held in western Beirut, the vice chairman of Lebanon's Supreme Assembly of Shi'a Muslims, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din emphasized on elimination of tribal system as a solution for ending the crisis in Lebanon.

Exhibition on Oil Company's Activities Opens

GF220732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] The pavilion of the Iranian [words indistinct] oil company opens in Laleh Park today, marking the beginning of the 6th year of the imposed war. In this pavilion, the activities of oil industry employees and the company, especially with regard to the imposed war, will be depicted in more than 100 color photographs. Video film will be shown of the operations to cap the Nowruz oil well. Among the most important photographs to be exhibited will be ones showing the operations of the huge oil platforms at sea, the repair of an Iranian oil tanker, the huge tankers of the Petroleum Ministry, and the repair and renovation of a platform.

An official at this pavilion spoke to our correspondent on the activities of the Iranian oil company. Until the victory of the Islamic revolution, the operations of the [words indistinct] oil companies were completely in the hands of Americans, Italians, and the French who reaped 20-years of benefits from Khark, Lavan, and Sirri Islands and other oil installations in the areas around the islands. Following the victory of the Islamic revolution, the heads of five oil companies affiliated to the abovementioned great powers [words indistinct] Iranian Oil Company was set up.

Inauguration Events of Third War Exhibition Detailed

LD231831 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA — The third exhibition under the title of "From Karbala' to Al-Quds" depicting parts of efforts of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Reconstruction Jihad and the Armed Forces' during the five-year-old Iraqi imposed war was inaugurated by head of War Information Headquarters (WIH), Dr. Kamal Kharrazi at the Imam Sadiq University here on the second day of the war week, Monday.

Models of operations previously conducted by Iran's Muslim combatants and posters showing jihad's engineering operations in the fronts were shown in pavilions of the army, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and Reconstruction Jihad.

Meanwhile, parts of booty seized by Iranian fighters during the war such as T-52 Soviet-made tanks, various kinds of chemical weapons deployed by Iraqi regime were displayed in the exhibition.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,240

LD261539 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26 IRNA — A military communique issued here Thursday, said that at least 70 Iraqi forces were killed or wounded in the northern fronts "over the preceding 24 hours" as their positions were artilleried by the Islamic combatants of Iran.

Other enemy losses in these fronts, according to Communique Number 2240 of the Joint Staff Command, were three tanks, nine light and heavy vehicles, one munitions depot, and several bunkers.

It also said that Iranian fire had forced introding enemy planes to withdraw from Qadir operation region in the north.

In the western fronts, the command said, the Iranian forces continued their "tactical pressure" on the enemy troops by using heavy weapons fire against them. Two enemy vehicles were destroyed by the fire of Gendarmerie forces on Iraqi vehicles near the border town of Qasr-e Shirin.

An enemy infiltration attempt in Eynkhosh region of the southern front was foiled by the timely fire of the Islamic defenders who inflicted some casualties on the Iraqis and forced them to retreat.

The port city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was target of sporadic enemy fire as a result of which some material damage was inflicted.

NVOI Cites Tudeh Party on Anniversary of War

TA231415 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Station commentary: "The Iran-Iraq War — An Endless Catastrophe"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Five years have passed since the outbreak of the U.S.-sponsored Iran-Iraq war. Although this war was launched by Iraq against the glorious Bahman revolution upon the order of world-devouring America -- and in this respect the Iraqi regime is an aggressor regime -- a new stage was created in this warfollowing the conquest of Khorramshahr and the expulsion of the aggressor enemy forces from the pure soil of our homeland by the heroic Iranian people. Khomeyni and his warmongering followers and aides are the main culprits for the continuatnon of this stage.

On the occasion of the end of the 5th year of the Iran-Iraq war, the Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee issued a statement entitled "The Start of the 6th Year of the Iran-Iraq War — An Endless Catastrophe", which we now bring to the attention of the dear compatriots from Issue 67, dated 12 September 1985, of *NAMEH-YE MARDOM*, central organ of the Iranian Tudeh Party:

On 22 September 1985 five years will have passed since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war. The 6th year of the war begins without seeing even the remotest possibility for ever ending this catastrophe. Undoubtedly, Iraq launched the war within the framework of an imperialist plot against the February 1979 revolution. In this regard the Iraqi regime should, without any reservations, be called the aggressor and be condemned. However, at the same time, it must be noted that leaders of the Islamic regime were not blameless in creating a pretext for this aggression. The silly policy of exporting the revolution, which was one of their principles -- with Iraq being the first test case -- offered an opportunity to Iraq's dictator to violate the 1975 Algiers agreement, which had ended all disputes between the two sides, and to subject our homeland to aggression in the hope of realizing his false dream.

The heroic people resisted against this surprise attack and by a difficult armed struggle drove out the aggressors from their homeland. The conquest of Khorramshahr and the cleansing of Iranian territory from the occupation of Iraqi forces was the beginning of a new stage in this war. Khomeyni's regime had the duty, by taking advantage of the suitable opportunity, to adopt measures to end the war, receive indemnity from the aggressor, and lay the foundation for a lasting peace between the two neighboring countries on the basis of observing mutual rights and interests. However, Khomeyni and his associates, who were still planning to export the revolution and gain domination over neighboring Muslim countries, refrained from ending the war and continued a destructive adventure that has dragged the two neighboring countries in dust and blood.

In the present period those responsible for the war's prolongation are Khomeyni and his associates. It is they who, by abusing the people's religious feelings and presenting the war as a divine blessing, a Shari'a duty, a way to reach paradise, and a means for destroying Zionism and restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, have continued the war. The casualties of this war are innumerable and its damages countless. A large part of our country's most prosperous and rich regions have burned in the conflagration. Millions of war refugees have transferred the war's calamities to the entire country. However, criminals who hold the reins of power in the Islamic Republic, are still chanting the slogan "War, war until victory", and are still declaring their resolve to continue the war.

This war is one whose potential winner and loser are both losers. The winners of this war are only the aggressive imperialist forces who are exploiting this adventure for their own selfish aims. The Iran-Iraq war not only offers an opportunity for the export of arms to both sides but at the same time is a means for sowing seeds of discord and enmity among the region's countries, for consolidating imperialist positions, and for aiding Israel's aggressive plans.

By prolonging the war, Khomeyni and his associates have been turned into tools of imperialist policies and, foremost of all, of U.S. imperialism. It is not without reason that Israel and America, despite all the so-called anti-imperialist measures of Khomeyni and partners, sell weapons to him. The so-called arms smuggling from America to Iran, in which the Pentagon's official authorities are taking part directly or indirectly, is something confirmed by U.S. circles. In recent years hundreds of ships carrying weapons from America have been sent to Iran. The difference between this kind of sale and the official sale is that the illegal salesman sells the goods at several times their value.

The Iranian Tudeh Party strongly condemns the Khomeyni regime's criminal policy of prolonging the war and demands the declaration of an immediate cease-fire on all fronts, the holding of direct talks between the two sides, and the settlement of issues in dispute on the basis of national sovereignty and the two country's mutual rights and interests. In our opinion this should and could have been done a long time ago. Those responsible for the continuation of this crime at this stage are mainly leaders of Khomeyni's republic, but as an adage says: One gains whenever losses are minimized. Every day that this war is prolonged new pages will be added to the book of crimes of Khomeyni and his associates.

The duty of the Iranian people is to rise in order to expose the nature of a war imposed upon them by a group of bloody criminals, and by their united action prevent the warmongers from continuing their crimes.

Afghan Mujahidin Reportedly Make Gains in North

LD261718 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 26 Sep 85

[Text] London, Sept. 26 IRNA — The Afghan mujahidin are reported to have scored military gains in Baghlan, Badakhshan and Samanagan Provinces in northern Afghanistan lying on Soviet borders, on Sept. 12.

According to AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS [AAP] from Baghlan, some 14 Karmal troops were captured in an operation in which mujahidin surrounded a military post. The other soldiers

fled to security mud tower but the explosion of mines planted near the tower killed 18 in Baghlan outskirts.

Earlier on September 11, the mujahidin took captive three military officers in a raid on the hqs. of 20th Brigade of Karmal forces, in the north of Pul-e-Khrumi town, and also seized a quantity of ammunition.

Afghan mujahidin ambushed the joint Afghan-Soviet troops near Kishm town in Badakhshan Province on Sept. 7, killing 10 as well as wounding some others. Two mujahids were martyred. they also demolished two armoured vehicles by the rocket fire.

In Samangan Province, two hundred Karmal soldiers at Kholm town joined the mujahidin. According to AAP, Abdul Karim, Pehlwan Khan and Khalifah Salim, local commanders of Karmal militia contacted the mujahidin and intended to join them to fight against the Soviet occupiers. After receiving positive response from Afghan commander, Yar Muhammad, 200 soldiers along with their commanders joined the revolutionaries in southern mountains of Kholm on September 13, bringing with them one truck, three jeeps, wireless sets as well as various types of arms.